

Washington Aqueduct. This loan would have to be repaid by the Aqueduct's customers and, as such, the Congressional Budget Office scores it as no cost to the Federal government. The measure I introduce today is identical to Senator WARNER's legislation.

This bill will provide a financial mechanism for the repairs so that the hundreds of millions of dollars for the work do not result in exorbitant hikes in water rates. Under current rules, any needed capital improvements at the Aqueduct must be paid for in advance by District consumers and consumers in Arlington County and the city of Falls Church.

In response to more stringent water quality requirements being implemented nationally by the EPA, substantial costly improvements of \$200-\$500 million will be necessary at the Aqueduct over the next 10-15 years. Affordable water rates can be maintained only if payments are spread out over an extended period of time. This bill will ensure the long term future of the Aqueduct at reasonable consumer rates.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure granting the Corps of Engineers the authority to provide vital improvements to the Aqueduct and ensuring safe drinking water for all of those served by this facility.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.

(a) AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF MODERNIZATION.—Subject to approval in, and in such amounts as may be provided in appropriations Acts, the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to modernize the Washington Aqueduct.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Army Corps of Engineers borrowing authority in amounts sufficient to cover the full costs of modernizing the Washington Aqueduct. The borrowing authority shall be provided by the Secretary of the Treasury, under such terms and conditions as are established by the Secretary of the Treasury, after a series of contracts with each public water supply customer has been entered into under subsection (b).

(b) CONTRACTS WITH PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CUSTOMERS.—

(1) CONTRACTS TO REPAY CORPS DEBT.—To the extent provided in appropriations Acts, and in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3), the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to enter into a series of contracts with each public water supply customer under which the customer commits to repay a pro-rata share of the principal and interest owed by the Army Corps of Engineers to the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a). Under each of the contracts, the customer that enters into the contract shall commit to pay any additional amount necessary to fully offset the risk of default on the contract.

(2) OFFSETTING OF RISK OF DEFAULT.—Each contract under paragraph (1) shall include such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Treasury may require so that the value to the Government of the contracts is estimated to be equal to the obligational authority used by the Army Corps of Engineers for modernizing the Washington Aqueduct at the time that each series of contracts is entered into.

(3) OTHER CONDITIONS.—Each contract entered into under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) provide that the public water supply customer pledges future income from fees assessed to operate and maintain the Washington Aqueduct;

(B) provide the United States priority over all other creditors; and

(C) include other conditions that the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appropriate.

(c) BORROWING AUTHORITY.—Subject to an appropriation under subsection (a)(2) and after entering into a series of contracts under subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Chief of Engineers of the Army Corps of Engineers, shall seek borrowing authority from the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a)(2).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CUSTOMER.—The term "public water supply customer" means the District of Columbia, the county of Arlington, Virginia, and the city of Falls Church, Virginia.

(2) VALUE TO THE GOVERNMENT.—The term "value to the Government" means the net present value of a contract under subsection (b) calculated under the rules set forth in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a(5)), excluding section 502(5)(B)(i) of the Act, as though the contracts provided for the repayment of direct loans to the public water supply customers.

(3) WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT.—The term "Washington Aqueduct" means the water supply system of treatment plans, raw water intakes, conduits, reservoirs, transmission mains, and pumping stations owned by the Federal Government located in the metropolitan Washington, District of Columbia, area.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN G. JACOB

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished community service of Helen G. Jacob, on the occasion of the opening of the Department of Veteran's Affairs Western New York Healthcare System Women's Wellness Center dedicated in her honor.

Ms. Jacob has served the State of New York as the chairperson of the Rehabilitation Committee for Women Veterans, a project which she initiated in 1984. She has also served as the vice president of the National Historians' Association, Area I, which encompasses 12 States and 3 separate countries.

In addition to these remarkable duties, Helen Jacob is also the women's coordinator for the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Buffalo, NY. In this capacity, she has selflessly dedicated countless hours on a volunteer basis to the personal needs of both inpatient and outpatient women in the medical center's care.

Helen also holds the prestigious honor of being the only woman elected as Commander of the American Legion of Erie County, a position responsible for approximately 14,000 members in over 50 posts.

Since its inception in 1992, Ms. Jacob has provided insight and expertise in veteran related issues on my 30th Congressional District Veterans Advisory Committee. Helen's insight and sage advice on matters concerning our Nation's veterans is truly appreciated, and I unreservedly offer her my enthusiastic con-

gratulations and commendations for this dedication.

The dedication of the Helen G. Jacob Women's Wellness Center is also testimony to the innovative spirit of the hospital itself, as it is the only one of its kind nationwide in a veterans hospital or medical center.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the Jacob family, her colleagues, friends, all of those who served our Nation in the Armed Forces, and indeed, the entire western New York community to honor Ms. Helen G. Jacob for her dedication, hard work, and commitment to western New York and its veterans.

AMERICORPS: INVESTMENTS
WORTH MAKING IN OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a valuable initiative that is an investment in both our Nation's communities and the citizens who live in them, the AmeriCorps Program. AmeriCorps participants earn money for their education by giving their time to efforts that improve communities and help people in need. The goal of the AmeriCorps Program is to support communities' efforts to provide for the human, educational, environmental, and public safety needs in their area. AmeriCorps initiatives serve to strengthen communities, increase civic responsibility, and expand opportunities for our Nation's citizens in need. These goals mean the AmeriCorps Program benefits our Nation on two fronts. It expands the knowledge and skill of our Nation's next generation of workers while simultaneously benefiting community organizations that are struggling to deliver essential assistance to our most vulnerable citizens, a struggle that will only increase in future years as budgets tighten and these organizations are asked to take a more prominent role in the delivery of such assistance.

When discussing AmeriCorps, some of my colleagues have referred to a General Accounting Office [GAO] study that shows higher costs per participant in the AmeriCorps Program than first calculated. The study states that the average cost per AmeriCorps member is \$26,654. The study, however, neglects to calculate the benefits, economic or social, that the program provides. In fact, the very objective of this GAO study was solely to calculate the per participant cost figure, not to determine whether the AmeriCorps Program provides higher benefits than those costs or whether the program has been effective in reaching its goals. The GAO analysis, therefore, is a one dimensional study because major value is added by AmeriCorps participants that is not considered.

The University of Minnesota recently completed a study of the benefits of the AmeriCorps Program in Minnesota and how those benefits compare with program costs. The study noted a number of economic and social benefits that the GAO study ignores, concluding that AmeriCorps initiatives benefit communities far more than they cost. One example is an AmeriCorps project in Minneapolis

where nine AmeriCorps youths, some having a prior brush with the law, renovated four homes. The resulting benefits to the city include property appreciation, increased tax payments, decreased cost to the justice system, and the benefit of having the participating youth learn valuable skills and a strong work ethic. The University of Minnesota study concludes that the community received a benefit of \$3.90 per every dollar put into the project; that is nearly a 4 to 1 benefit ratio.

In West St. Paul, 14 dedicated AmeriCorps members coached and tutored 800 students, contributing to a 30-percent drop in theft and vandalism in the area. This drop in crime saved taxpayers \$160,000 in law enforcement and property costs, and helped earn this program a \$2.94 benefit to each dollar of cost. In addition to the direct economic benefits measured by the study, this project helped to educate hundreds of students who will benefit from that education long after their participation in the project is finished. AmeriCorps members in Minnesota also ran a program to help high school drop-outs gain their diplomas. Forty young people earned their diploma from this effort. The community, however, gained much more in the form of increased income tax revenue resulting from these new graduates' higher expected incomes and, more importantly, it gained a more educated population which is more likely to see the value of voluntarism and give back to their community in later years.

AmeriCorps is working for our communities and youth in Minnesota and, I expect, throughout the Nation. In Minnesota, the AmeriCorps Program has indeed been effective in reaching its goals and has proven to be an efficient use of public funds. Minnesota members of AmeriCorps work with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as with public entities like Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Their activities include tutoring and mentoring young students, reducing adult illiteracy, rehabilitating and constructing low-income housing, restoring deteriorating parks and green spaces, aiding elderly citizens with independent living, and providing outreach services to victims of domestic violence, to name only a fraction of their past and ongoing efforts. These are civic endeavors that make a real difference in peoples' lives in our State, and the AmeriCorps members that are achieving these successes are young people who, because of AmeriCorps, will gain the opportunity to go to college or acquire other types of training so that they can build better lives for themselves and their families.

A recent Gallup Poll found that 94 percent of Americans agree that national service initiatives like AmeriCorps are important efforts for the Federal Government to organize and maintain. Furthermore, 75 percent of Americans object to reducing or eliminating the program. Nonetheless, the Republican majority has, ironically, targeted national service initiatives such as AmeriCorps for elimination while citing a study that only analyzes costs and is blind to the benefits of the program, therefore, concluding erroneously that our Nation cannot afford such an effort.

Proposed reductions in funding for education, welfare, and other programs that help our children and disadvantaged families make

the work of AmeriCorps even more essential. The AmeriCorps Program is a double investment in the future of this Nation. The program not only gives struggling social service organizations a helping hand assisting our most vulnerable children, adults and elderly citizens, it helps AmeriCorps participants become relevant, productive, successful members of their communities and teaches all participants the value and importance of giving back to the communities in which they live. The AmeriCorps Program is a good investment in our Nation, and it is working. Let us keep AmeriCorps in place to serve our youth and our communities.

MILLIONS SUFFER UNDER INDIAN REPRESSION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week the nation of India celebrated its Republic Day, the 46th anniversary of the adoption of its constitution in 1950. On this occasion, it seems fitting to step back and assess India's progress in the areas of human rights and conflict resolution with its neighbors.

It is unfortunate to report that India's progress in many areas has not been very good. In terms of making peace with its neighbor, Pakistan, India's record has frankly been abysmal. In fact, on the very day that India was celebrating Republic Day, two rockets were fired into a small town in the Kashmiri region of Pakistan. One struck a mosque just after noon prayers, killing 20 civilians and injuring many more. It is widely assumed that the rockets were fired by the Indian Army. The next day, India took the very belligerent step of test-firing its Prithvi II missile. This new missile is nuclear-capable and able to reach any major city in Pakistan.

India's refusal to negotiate seriously with its neighbor Pakistan, and with the Kashmiri people, over the status of Kashmir has been a major disappointment to the world community. Much more disappointing has been India's inhuman record of government-sanctioned murder and torture in Kashmir. For years, India's security forces have run amuck in Kashmir, committing gang-rapes, extrajudicial killings, burning down entire villages, spraying gunfire into crowds of civilians and committing unspeakable acts of torture on the Kashmiri people. India has conducted a carefully orchestrated campaign of rape, torture, and murder in order to keep the people of Kashmir from demonstrating for independence.

I was particularly struck by one story reported by Professor William Baker in a recent book:

He interviewed a young woman who had been abducted by Indian soldiers who had just searched her village. They dragged her off to their compound, where they kept her naked in a pit. They raped her in a pit for 10 days. They extinguished their cigarettes all over her body. When they were through with her, they took her to the bank of a river, stabbed her in the head with a bayonet, and left her for dead. Today she is so traumatized, she has lost most of her memory.

For the people of Kashmir, such treatment is all too common. In neighboring Punjab,

where the Sikh people have also been fighting for their right to self-determination, the human rights situation has been just as dismal. In June of 1984, 11 years ago, as the movement for a free Khalistan was gaining steam, the Indian Army launched an assault on the holiest Sikh shrine—the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Thirty-eight other temples were also attacked, and over 20,000 Sikh civilians were murdered. Since that time, life in Punjab has been a nightmare of repression. Thousands of Sikhs are imprisoned without charges and tortured. Young men are abducted by security forces and disappear forever. Entire families are brutalized.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the Indian Government has been making the claim that the human rights situation in Punjab has improved dramatically. Unfortunately, there is no truth to the claim. It has been estimated that as many as 70,000 Sikhs languish in Indian prisons without charges. Asia Watch has reported that "virtually everyone detained in Punjab is tortured."

Last month, I sent around a Dear Colleague letter detailing a particularly horrible encounter that happened late last year. A human rights activist was detained by Indian police along with his driver. The driver's legs were tied to two separate jeeps that drove off in opposite directions, tearing the man into pieces. The human right activist had disappeared.

In another case that has received widespread attention, well-known human rights figure Jaswant Singh Khrala was abducted by police last September. Mr. Khrala earned the wrath of the Indian Government by publicizing charges that the army had murdered over 25,000 Sikhs and cremated their bodies to cover up their crimes. Despite international protests, including a letter from myself and 64 of my House colleagues, Mr. Khrala has disappeared into the Indian prison system.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Khrala should be released immediately, along with all prisoners of conscience in Punjab and Kashmir. It is long past time for India's reign of terror to come to an end. The Indian Government cannot achieve its goals through the systematic abuses of basic human rights. The time has come for the Government of India to sit down and negotiate agreements with Sikh and Kashmiri political leaders that respect their rights to democracy, self-determination, and human rights.

I would like to make one final observation. In the very near future, India's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. S.S. Ray, will be returning to India. Mr. Ray has been a controversial figure. During the late 1980's, he was the Governor of the State of Punjab. This was at the time when some of the worst atrocities were taking place there, and Ambassador Ray was, at the time, in command of the security forces who were committing them. It was highly inappropriate for the Government of India to send to us an ambassador who has been widely charged with responsibility for a campaign of human rights abuses by security forces under his watch. I hope that, in selecting a new ambassador, the Indian Government will be more sensitive to the concerns of the American people and the international community.